

HO SOCCER

TAUNTON & DISTRICT YOUTH LEAGUE

(Affiliated to the Somerset Football Association)

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Dear Secretaries and Referees
Date: 6th August 2020
Ref – New guidance

Following a Management Meeting of the TYL the following points have been agreed by the committee to provide additional guidance.

The League accepts that it will be difficult to manage individual members of the public walking onto open space areas where the majority of your pitches are located.

Under the new guidance **each club has to appoint a COVID officer who has to liaise with club officials, players and match officials before every game**. It is suggested that a number of individuals are made aware of the responsibilities of the COVID Officer, especially if you run a number of teams. I have attached a COVID Officer guidance.

Home clubs are to issue their Risk Assessment to their opponents and the match officials at least 3 days prior to the game.
Opponents and match officials are to make themselves familiar with the contents of the RA and align to each clubs unique assessment.

Under the new guidance **match officials are not to share their flags with club linesman**. Therefore, **clubs are to provide their own flag**.

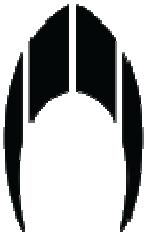
Home clubs when confirming official's appointments are to determine if the official prefers cash or bank transfer payment. The FA would prefer a cashless payment but this is not acceptable to some match officials. If cash is the preferred option then this must be provided in a sealed envelope and within 20 minutes of the end of the game.

The League are skeptical of any new APP that offers the facility to pay officials and should only be used if clubs are completely confident in its use and the match official is comfortable in accepting payment via an APP

The FA guidance is that match officials should not touch the match ball. **It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure the ball condition is acceptable and the pressure meets FA Law.**

Any use of changing rooms must follow the latest FA guidelines.

WE WILL ALSO NEED TO SEE YOUR CLUB RISK ASSESSMENT BEFORE YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY FIXTURES THIS IS A FA REQUIREMENT. – [This has now changed \(MSL\)](#)



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With regards to the washing of Kit we would recommend that **players wash their own kit**, unless the Club use a Laundry service to which the kit should be placed in a sealed bag and handled in line with current Government guidelines.

Under the new guidance players and officials are to bring their own water bottles therefore the requirement to provide half time refreshment is temporarily suspended until further notice.

The League Committee have decided to maintain the number of substitutes is from any 5 and there **will not be a water break after 22 minutes unless the match official decides that due to the temperature on the day it will be applied due to player hydration**.

Under new social distancing guidance it is likely that all substitutes will not potentially be able to sit within the dugout. The League suggest that an enclosed off area behind the dugout be created with enough chairs for the possible 5 substitutes to sit + 3 chairs for players who may be substituted as shared usage is not permitted and these should be sanitized after each use

Referees are not to enforce Social Distancing guidance or award yellow cards if occupants of the dugout decide to sit or stand next to each other and not comply with guidance. The Committee request that these incidents are added to your match report.

FA Guidance advises that Referees should wear face coverings upon arrival at the ground and at all times until they start their warm-up.

Any player or official who has any cold type symptoms is not permitted to attend the ground. If a player or official contracts COVID then Track and Trace must be first contacted to ascertain the guidance that will need to be followed and then please advise me so that the League can look to adjust fixtures etc whilst quarantine periods are adhered too.

The League is **still looking to start the season on September 5th**, but it may be 2 weeks before fixtures are released on Full Time. Mark Vickers has arranged that teams local to each other are playing each other as much as possible in the first 2 weeks of the season for ease of travelling.

Can all teams comply with league rule and ensure they have a **minimum of 15 players registered BY 31ST AUGUST** before the season kick off.

Yours in Sport

Gary Best

League Secretary